

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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TOC

News and Notes	Chris Garcia, Ed Martinez	2	
Letters of Comment	Chris Garcia	3	
Editorial.....	Jean Martin.....	6	
This Old Fanzine: THE ACOLYTE No. 11	Chris Garcia	8	
WonderCon Rolls into Town.....	España Sheriff.....	Photos by Oscar Chang and Diane Rooney	10
Weekend at WonderCon (Not).....	Chris Garcia	Photo by Diane Rooney.....	13
Elegant Edwardian Tea at the Palace	Jean Martin.....	Photos by Jean Martin.....	16
My Idol, Carrie Fisher.....	Cordelia Willis	Photos by Kevin Berne and Jean Martin.....	19
BASFA Minutes			21
Bay Area Fannish Calendar	España Sheriff.....		23

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

It's getting close to explosion time.

I'm off to the UK on March 14th and there's not a damn thing anyone can do about it...except customs officials and Homeland Security. I'm powerless against them. I'll be having a bunch of fun checking out the Cartoon Museum in London, as well as the Science Museum, Bletchley Park, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, and so many other things. I'm also planning on investigating actual Pub Food, seeing what they do to Mexican food, and going to the only tiki bar in all the British Isles for St. Patrick's Day. I won't have much in the next issue, but be assured that there's gonna be a lot of Garcia in the first April issue!

In other news, there's a new issue of *The Knarley Knews* on the site (people.msoe.edu/~welch/tkk.html) and it's darn good. I've got an article in there about TAFF, there's great stuff in there from Terry Jeeves, and the LoColumn is fantastic. Well worth looking into.

I know I pushed it last time, but go and read the latest *eI* on eFanzines.com. While you're at eFanzines, take a look at *Trap Door*. Robert Lichtman is one of the BArea's top faneds and issue 24 is just fantastic. Issue 25 is also out on the streets, but in paper form only at the moment.

If you get a chance, look at the Cinequest website (www.cinequest.org) for info on the closing weekend. It looks like real good fun.

No word on the schedule for the Sonoma Valley Film Festival. It's probably gonna be a great time, but I wanna know what I'll be watching!

I can't think of much for this week. Costume-Con is coming up (I'll be MCing the Fantasy and Science Fiction Masq) and there'll be a lot of great stuff. The Historical Masq has a number of entries already. You really should get your rooms now before it's too late!

There was a giant Wrestling Festival this weekend. I couldn't go. I'm bummed because some of my heroes, like Tito Santana, were there. My pain is obvious.

Here's to the good guys. Some wonderful folks have offered much help to me for the Denver Worldcon Fanzine Lounge. I'll also be running the Westercon one. And the one at BayCon. You should stop by all of them if you're gonna be around. I promise a good time!



I am sad to report the news that Ben Chapman passed away on February 21st at the age of 79. Anyone who knows me will say I am a huge fan of the *Creature from the Black Lagoon* monster and the man who played the Creature in the "Land Suit" (another man was in the underwater shots). I was lucky to meet Ben in person at the Castro movie house and spend a very special day with him for a special showing of the film. He was my inspiration and favorite monster. — Ed Martinez

Letters Of Comment

Let us start with Peter Sullivan!

On Chris' editorial, it's reassuring, in a way, to know that even Garcias find TAFF rather a daunting prospect when it comes down to it. But let me put some of your fears to rest with some good, solid facts.

As far as Eastercon numbers go, I think more typical figures for attendance are in the 500-700 range, rather than the 1500-2000 you suggested. Think of it as the equivalent of a North American medium-large regional — your figures are probably more Australian-Worldcon-sized. So the 41 people who voted for you are not such a small proportion of the attendees as you might think.

Chris Garcia replies: Actually, not even a medium-sized regional — It's even smaller than SiliCon was this year! That's shocking. I thought that a National Convention would be much larger.

And those 41 votes are, in terms of recent history, a pretty solid basis for an Eastward race. Perhaps inevitably, European voters tend towards mild apathy for Eastward races, normally redeemed by a higher level of interest for Westward races. Looking at just the Eastward recent races, in 2005, Suzle got 8 out of 30 total European votes. Randy Byers got 28 out of 51 in 2003. Regional breakdowns for 2001 are not available, but there were only 104 votes on both sides of the Atlantic.

I'd always make more of an effort to vote in the elections that are coming this way than the other way. It's weird that it's not the norm.

And Vijay Bowen got 8 out of 19 European votes in 1999. You actually have the highest recorded European vote for an Eastward race since Dan Steffan (51) in 1995. So 41 votes sounds like a good, solid TAFF constituency to me.

Man, that's crazy. 19 votes on the UK side? That's nuts!

Also, remember that both sides of the TAFF fund are pretty flush at the moment. Of course, it is a fundamental truth of fandom that TAFF, like the Pentagon or the National Health Service, can always use more money.

No arguing there.

But the impression I get is that there's been a subtle shift in the economics of TAFF over the last ten or so years. After the problems of the mid and late 1990s, both sides of the fund are now run on a much more professional basis, rather than just leaving the administrator to sink or swim. And the growth of fan fund auctions (usually held at UK conventions under the auspices of the League of Fan Funds) has reduced the dependence on voting fees as the main source of income.

Yeah, that's a good thing. I'm very comfortable with the support network that's out there. I'm trying to get more and more tie-ins for

TAFF to make some good money.

In short, you ain't getting out of organising both a 2009 Westbound and 2010 Eastbound race just yet, you know!

Well, I'm looking forward to it. Thanks much, Peter.

And now, I've got my man Mark Plummer!

Chris/Jean,

A small consolation for you, Chris (Editorial, *SFSF* #60), is that you're quite a bit off when you say "At an average Eastercon, there's gotta be 1500 or 2000 people." I believe the 1984 convention, which was a combined Eastercon/Eurocon, got up to 1,700 members, but that was way bigger than any other Eastercon. In the 1980s and 1990s numbers were often edging towards 1,000 with occasional dips in British Worldcon years, while just recently they've been down slightly, more like 6-700.

Again, strange. You hear the word National Convention and you think big.

It's true that this year's Eastercon is looking to be relatively large, back up towards the 1,000 mark, but I guess you can still bank on a slightly higher name-recognition amongst the convention attendees than you suspected. And that's without taking into account what James Bacon is telling the rest of British fandom about you. In which respect a piece of advice: if anybody asks you odd questions about fireworks

and skateboards I suggest that you pretend that you only speak Norwegian.

You see, I win TAFF and the con gets big! James Bacon is telling the good stories for me! I was gonna tell that one when I got out there!

While I'm putting you straight I should also mention that Abi Brown, rather than being 'in her early twenties', is actually a few months younger than John Coxon, and you've also aged Flick by a couple of years. And I am unreasonably amused by the way you refer to 'Ravin' Dave Langford' and 'John The Rock Coxon'. And if some of John's 'natural awesome' does indeed rub off on you, don't worry -- I'm sure there are launderettes nearby.

Great, now I feel even older. Thanks, Mark. Way to make me feel decrepit. I've got little nicknames for everyone in UK fandom that I'm gonna meet, from Sue Free Mason to Rob Action Jackson!

Best etc.

Mark Plummer

Croydon, UK

Thanks much! Can't wait for the next Banana Wings.

And now...Steve Green, making it three Brits in a row!

Hi Chris, Jean,

Lloyd Penney writes, "British zines often contain fiction with fans as characters." Either he meant to drop that sentence into the past tense, or his comments arrived via a wormhole: the phenomenon he refers to hasn't been a major element in British fandom since the 1960s, unless you count the more fictional events recounted in convention reports. (Simon Ounsley once had my corpse discovered in a hotel bath, but my

memory of that weekend remains a mite blurred, so I can't say for certain he made it up.)

All best,

Steve

I never really thought that Faan Fiction was an English thing. I know that the US had a number of Faan Fiction writers, including Marion Zimmer Bradley and Arnie Katz, who continues to write the stuff through to today. I'm pretty sure that your corpse was not found in a bathtub...unless you found Lloyd's wormhole and have been sending Fannish Memory Syndromes from the past!

And finally, Mr. Lloyd Penney himself!

Dear Chris and Jean: I'm at home, enjoying some lunch, and there's time to respond to issues 59 and 60 of SF/SF.

MMMMMM...lunch!

59...I've never been to a furry con, so I've got nothing to compare it against. Every so often, there's a clip on YouTube or other video site with fur suits on parade, or mention online about a crime show with a homicide that takes place at a furry con...I think the public knows not what to make of people in fur suits, and the press always teaches us that when we don't understand something, we should just laugh at it.

I had a good time. I'm planning on working for them again next year, if they'll have me. The strange thing is a lot of the furies are the ones who laugh hardest at furrydom.

You confirmed it yourself, you're running the fanzine lounge in Denver. Well, it's been confirmed that I'm running the fanzine lounge in Montreal. I have to cook up some ideas, and I can share them with you. Sounds like both Worldcon committees want a room, but now

to see if we get a dedicated room, or it's just a pipe-and-drape arrangement. Wish I could come to Denver and help you with it, but the Denver Worldcon has never been in our plans. I hope I can count on your help in Montreal.

Yeah, it should be a good thing. We've got a great space right in the middle of everything in the Main Concourse. I've got some sneaky plans too!

My loc...have to admit, I've been floating a little bit, courtesy of bits of egoboo off the Trufen list. Hey, Chris, looking forward to the BASFA Times zine. I know you're busy with your TAFF trip, but when would we be able to see the first issue?

You don't need a passport to get to Canada...you need a passport to get back home to the US. Department of Homeland Insecurity and all that.

I'm working on it as we speak, but it'll probably be a week or so. I've got a passport now and I'm not afraid to use it!

Hi, Jean...I still have my Walkman, an AM/FM Walkman. How old is that? I used it at Panasonic, and it got a few looks, mostly because it's a Sony. I try my best to keep up to date with modern technology, but nothing says I have to own it. If I don't want it, or can't see a personal use for it, I don't buy it. For example, I don't watch much TV, so I'll probably never have a PVR. It looks like PDAs are on the way out, and that's a shame, for they are so useful for me.

Yeah, I've heard that. I really wish slate computers had won out. Kevin Roche uses one and it's very handy, and I hate little screens. I still have my first boombox from the early 1980s.



I've seen an issue of *File 770* 1 before. I guess Mike Glycer didn't know what he was getting himself into. New Orleans and Boston eventually settled with Worldcons, with New Orleans getting it for 1988 and Boston again for 1989. We attended both, and both were great fun. Boston had so many new and innovative ideas... I wish we'd been able to get to Noreascon 4 in 2004. I'd like to see some of the early issues of *Locus* way back when it was a fanzine. I'd have to dig it up, but I think I have *Novoid 5*, too. I can't dig it out...did I have a loc in that issue?

I didn't see one from ya in it. I should look again. I've got a few Locuses in my collection. They're actually pretty neat.

60...Lots to apologize for, Mr. Garcia? Or is Leigh Ann still going to hang it over you? Apologies may be accepted, but slights may not be forgotten. Be wary...

Oh, I don't think I'll ever truly be free of my shame.

John Purcell's loc...nope, no Davises won DUFF. You must be thinking of Steve and Sue Francis. I hope Murray goes for it again.

I do too. I think he's a fine candidate.

Wondercon sounds like fun...I know some prime R2D2 droid builders in Vancouver. They could teach the subject. Vancouver's closer than Toronto, and they'd make great guests.

The panel was a good one, but I only saw a bit of it. I don't have the technical know-how to make a droid. It just wouldn't work for me.

All done for the moment...I've got a few other projects right now that are a little overdue. Take care, all, and see you next issue.

Well then, we won't keep ya from 'em! Thanks much, Lloyd!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

I took a break in January and didn't go to any events, except for one birthday party. I didn't even take photos during that entire month, which is quite unusual. But in February, I was back in full force.

I started the month with the PEERS Mardi Gras Vampire Ball, which I reported in our last issue. That really got me excited about costuming, dancing, going to events and being with friends again. The weekend after that, I went to a GBACG event, and the following weekend was a BAERS ball. I'm covering one in this issue and the other next time. Then there was WonderCon, which was a total blast. I decided to stay in a hotel across the street from the Moscone Center and attended the entire weekend, and even went to a couple of other, non-con events that same weekend. I didn't get much sleep but I guess I proved to myself that I'm fully recovered and am ready for action again!

My WonderCon weekend stories are going to be quite long and I haven't had the chance to write about them yet, so you'll just have to tune in again for our next issue. I promise you some very entertaining stories and several awesome photos. At least I have been able to sort and edit my hundreds of photos already.

Which brings us to March — my favorite month of the year. Why, you ask? Well, my

birthday is in March. March 9 to be exact. And it seems like I have so many friends, relatives and even co-workers born in this same month. Coincidence? Fate? Karma? In any case, it makes for a lively month full of birthday revelry, greetings and presents. I like celebrating my birthday (and everyone else's for that matter). I really should be counting backwards at this point but I'm quite grateful for all the good times (and even the harsh lessons) for each one of the years I've been on this earth.

I'm throwing a birthday party and I'm a little bit nervous because I now live in a tiny one bedroom apartment. But I've realized that I have so many friends now who all like to do the same things I do. This is my one time of the year to show my appreciation to all of them for having them in my life. So we'll just all have to squeeze into my humble but lovely abode. And for the first time ever, I'm opening up the party to costumes. I'm going to be the Mad Hatter and serving afternoon tea in a Wonderland atmosphere. Hey, why not?

For me, this is the last birthday for a few years that will fall on a weekend. Because of the leap year, I missed out on having my birthday on a Sunday. Next year, it's going to be on a Monday. Boo-hoo! The weather during my birthday has been hit or miss since I've been here in the U.S. I remember winter storms and spring sunshine on my birthday. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for

good weather. In the Philippines, my birthday was always the start of the summer season and I celebrated it by having a pool party.

Backtracking a little bit, during my winter hibernation in January, I finished reading the *Chronicles of Narnia*. I read a couple of the books several years ago and I enjoyed the BBC miniseries as well as the first movie that came out recently, but I'd never read the entire series. I quite enjoyed them all. They were all different but some of them got a little bit too preachy for me. I appreciated the moral lessons but what I most enjoyed was the adventure into different lands. I saw the preview for *Prince Caspian* coming out in a few months and it looks fabulous. The actor playing Prince Caspian portrayed the young version of the father in the movie *Stardust*. I can't wait to see the movie, although I thought from the books that Prince Caspian should be a younger chap.

I also watched all of *Galactica 1980*, which just came out on DVD. Now I know a lot of people think this was terrible, but I really enjoyed it. It was quite funny and I liked knowing how the refugees on the *Galactica* found Earth and what they had to do when they got here. I liked the time traveling aspect, as well as the ending with Starbuck in it. I also watched a few episodes of *Fantasy Island*. Ricardo Montalban is quite awesome as the gracious but slightly sinister Mr. Rourke. The episodes I watched

were quite dated, though, and I didn't enjoy them as much as I did when I was younger.

For more recent shows, my sister told me to watch the last two episodes of *The Vicar of Dibley*, entitled "A Holy Wholly Happy Ending." Which is quite ironic because while I love that series, and British comedy in general, my sister isn't really into British shows. She just watched it on the recommendation of a co-worker. And I'm sure she didn't get the *Doctor Who* reference in the second episode. I'm not going to put spoilers here. All I'm going to say

is watch them (they're available in one DVD) if you're a British comedy and/or *Doctor Who* fan. They're hilarious! And having British hottie Richard Armitage (*North and South*; *Robin Hood*) doesn't hurt.

The second season of *Torchwood* just started and it has a different feel from the first season, but is just as good. The first episode has James Marsters in it (Spike from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; *Angel*), and the Western saloon, *High Noon*-like scene where his character Captain John Hart encounters Captain Jack

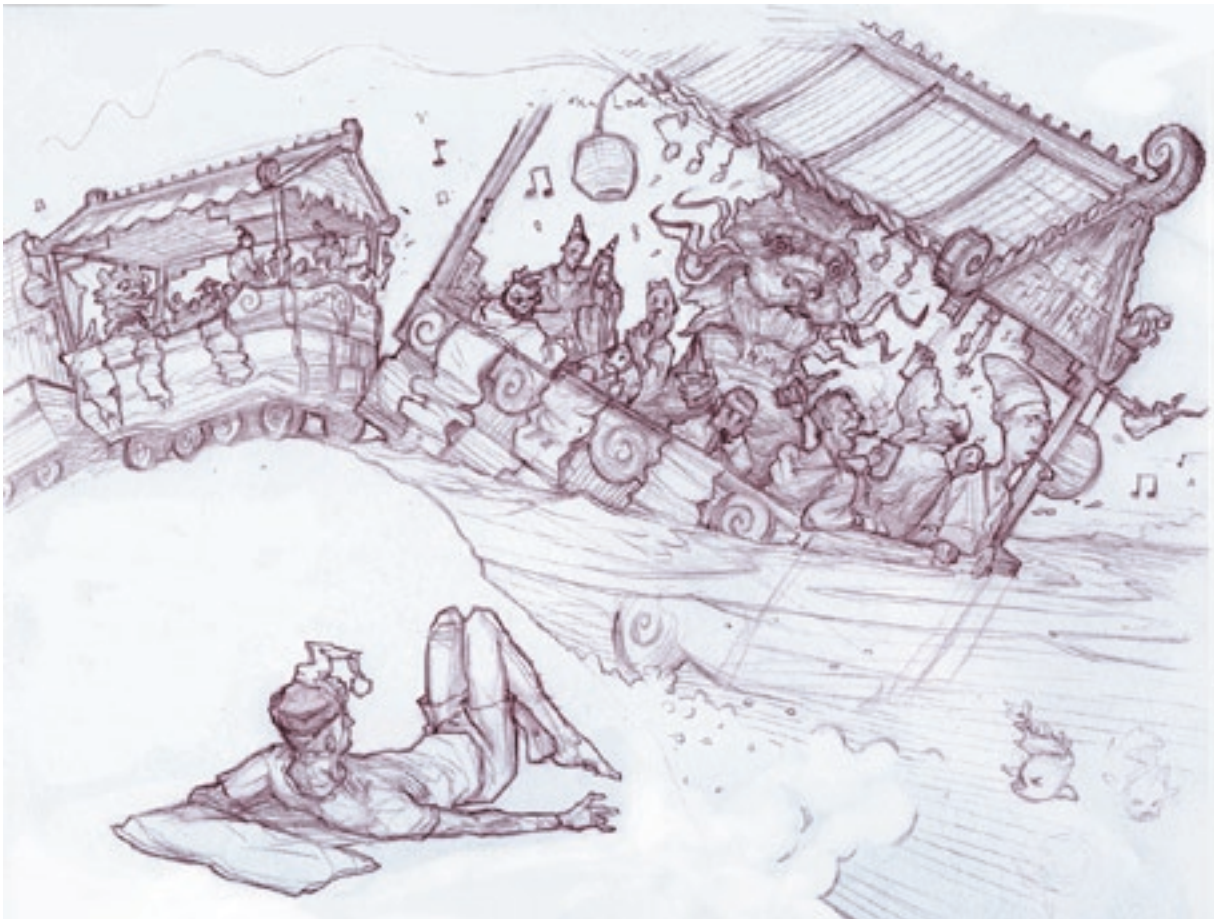
Harkness had me rolling on the floor with laughter.

Martha Jones, the Doctor's erstwhile companion, just showed up for three episodes. I feel about her in *Torchwood* the same as I did with her in *Doctor Who*: She's pretty, smart, resourceful and brave... but kinda boring. I was hoping they'd ramp her up and let her be more edgy or something since that would be more in line with the show's more adult nature, but she was again drowned out by all the other strong personalities in the show. This second season is also a little bit watered-down as far as sex, violence and hard-hitting drama goes. Oh well.

I also just watched *The Jane Austen Book Club* on DVD. I'm a big Jane Austen fan — as everyone probably knows because I'm into Regency Country dancing — so I really enjoyed this movie. I tried to read the book when it came out, but it was too slow and boring for me. But in the movie, I really cared about the characters and I liked how they talked about Jane Austen novels and movies and how it affected their lives. I also got a kick when I realized that the movie was set in the Sacramento area and had links to Silicon Valley. It made Austen's novels relevant and portrayed the different types of women who are into her oeuvre. It also showed how men can appreciate these novels as well, and how the stereotype of men liking science fiction and women liking Regency novels is so limiting — because a lot of men and women I know like both, so I guess this little stereotype-debunking tidbit wasn't a surprise to me.

What was surprising was how good Hugh Dancy was in this, as I haven't liked him

Editorial, Page 29



This Old Fanzine

THE ACOLYTE No. 11
by Francis Tower Laney

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

There are some names that are famous in fandom, for various reasons. One of those names is Francis Tower Laney. His name may be familiar to some because he wrote one of the most famous rants in the history of fandom: *Ah Sweet Idiocy*. He was a well-respected writer and put out a very well-respected zine called *The Acolyte* with Samuel D. Russell. Once again, Fanac.org comes through and has put up two issues of the legendary zine, and Issue 11 (Summer 1945) is the one I'm talkin' about here.

The first thing I always do when I'm looking over these zines of old is to check out the contributor list: Alva Rogers, Harry Warner, Elmer Purdue — a good list, but not a great list of contributors. The cover, from Rogers, is one of the cooler I've seen from that era. It's a skeletal ghostly creature reaching out. Very impressive in a Bernie Wrightson sort of way. This could have come from 1960s comic book fandom or even the 1970s horror film fanzines. It's an exceptional opener, that's for sure.

There's not that much art here, though

the headers are nicely stenciled. The typewritten pages are askew and not just from scanning. That stuck out to me. I never quite get the hang of slightly tilting text.

There's an excellent article from Laney on "Criteria for Criticism." It is an article that's been written from many different points of view over the years and it's one that is usually thoroughly considered. Laney himself looks at the entire idea of reviewing science fiction and I really think he's on the mark at some points (like the Non-Entertainment variety of science fiction) and way off in other ways. It's odd the ways in which his mind connects concepts, and I have to admit that he writes them well, though I'm not convinced that he's a real star. The evidence that he is the father of Insurgentism is obvious in every line. It's good reading though.

Arthur Hillman, a name I haven't seen in ages, did a bunch of Prose Poems and they're not awful. These are the kinds of things that used to pop up, and now show once in awhile, but not as often as you'd think with all the high-falutin' writers around! There's some more poetry too. I'll never understand why poetry has always been an accepted part of fanzines, while fiction is certainly not. I just don't get the difference.

There's a piece about Fantasy in Italy. That's an area I have no idea about: Italian Pop Culture, aside from their upper-level

filmmakers, is strange. Wrestling has been big there over the years, and SF has as well. This article is one of those that you'd think would be better with more distance, but right there in the time of production, it's a great look. I'm not sure if there's ever been a strong Italian fandom, but I'd like to find out how this stuff influenced folks.

There's a nice long piece from Harry Warner, which made me very happy. He's the guy who most influenced me and I wish I had been around to have him send The Drink Tank an LoC or two. Sadly, that never happened. Bummer.

The following article, "Interlude with Lovecraft," is different, thorough, and not nearly what I expected. I didn't think that that close to his time, Lovecraft would be nearly as much appreciated as he is today, but boy was I wrong. While it doesn't read like a modern appreciation would, it does get across the love. I also was interested in the talk of Clark Ashton Smith.

The best part for me was Elmer Purdue's "Sientifictional History of the Future." It's a great piece and I'm sure it's one of those things that could be done today and fill many, many volumes. I understand that this ran across several issues, which I think zines should do more of today, especially with ePublishing making it possible to shorten the space between zines. It's

THE ACOLYTE

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Vol. III, No. 3 Summer -- 1945 Whole No. 11

Cover:

THE OUTSIDER

Alva Rogers

Poems:

PROSE POEMS	Arthur F. Hillman	9
DARK ERA	Burnham Eaton	13
GREEKIAN RHAPSODY: A Fragment	Robert Avrett	14
THE INTRUDER	Margaret Stavely	18
THEY	Ruby Diehr	18

Articles and Features:

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING	The Editors	2
CRITERIA FOR CRITICISM:		
THE PRELIMINARY TO A SURVEY	Francis T. Laney	3
FANTASY IN ITALY	W. R. Gibson	10
"CONQUETES"	Harry Warner, Jr.	13
INTERLUDE WITH LOVECRAFT	Stuart Morton Boland	15
THE SCIENTIFCTIONAL HISTORY OF THE FUTURE (Part 1)	Elmer Perdue	19
BANQUETS FOR BOOKWORMS	Francis T. Laney	37
FANTASY FORUM	The Readers	38
"Chatter-Books" (Advt.)	Weaver Wright	38

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For speediest attention, all communications dealing with subscriptions, changes of address, exchanges, and submissions of material should be sent directly to Francis T. Laney, who handles this phase of Acolyte.

an amazing look at what people thought about visions of the future at a moment in the past. A wonderful concept that was even better produced.

Laney does some reviews (which you can see reflected in his earlier article) but the scan doesn't include the LetterCol, which I think would have been very interesting.

It's good stuff — the scans aren't perfect, but they're good enough for my needs, and I'm glad that it's out there on Fanac.org, if only for folks to get to know the guy who became better known for his homophobia and anger just a few years later.

www.fanac.org/fanzines/Acolyte/Acolyte11-00.html



Costume-Con 26

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WonderCon Rolls into Town

By España Sheriff

Staff Writer

WonderCon seems to get better for me each year, not so much because of changes to the event itself, but because I learn more about what is going on and have a fuller experience because of it.

This year I got my badge on Friday after work to avoid the mad Saturday crush, and wandered the exhibition hall for the last hour or so before closing, taking note of things I wanted to buy and crowd-watching. I had texted Chris and Jean as I headed down the hill to Moscone. Jean was apparently over in Chinatown to see the Miss Chinatown pageant, but on my way to Hall A, I ran into Chris hunched over his laptop, shamelessly fanzining in public. After chatting with him for a few minutes I went to the panel for the new 3D live action *Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

There was a panel just wrapping up for the movie adaptation of Mark Millar's *Wanted*, which stars James McAvoy. Although the director is Timur Bekmambetov, whose work on *Night Watch* seems like a good match for the material, what I saw seemed to indicate that the story has been changed considerably, possibly toned down and mainstreamed beyond recognition. On the other hand I was utterly charmed by McAvoy himself, whose career I was only dimly aware of before entering the room.

The *Journey* panel started a little late



Cosplayers descend on Moscone Center.

Photo by Oscar Chang

with two of the technical crew and Brendan Fraser on the panel. The movie itself seems to be a kid-friendly action adventure without terribly complex ambitions, but although the preview we saw was not in 3D (Jean got to see that one I think) the explanation of the technology was very interesting; it seemed to be a real leap ahead from what we have seen so far. Brendan Fraser was interesting to listen to; someplace between thoughtful and/or possibly baked out of his mind but clearly having a good deal of enthusiasm for the process.

He was quite entertaining during the Q&A process, obviously an old pro at it – although I own a copy of *Monkeybone*, so I didn't personally require an apology for that one.

After the panel let out, I ran into Garcia again, this time with the lovely and talented Linda, chatting with local costumers extraordinaire Mette Hedin and Bryan Little as well as some other folks who had just attended Gallifrey. After some dallying we all trundled over to Mel's for some much needed nourishment.

I always enjoy watching the crowd at Mel's during these kind of events or after certain shows or clubs let out, spotting my fellow travelers, and naturally this was no exception: Halfway through the meal Derek McCaw from

Fanboy Planet stopped by to say howdy and mentioned that there was some sort of Justice League panel the next day. I had skimmed my program book but somehow missed that the gorgeous Bruce Timm *New Frontiers* cover art was for a DVD adaptation of the recent graphic

in the giant madhouse t-shirt vendor that was far too claustrophobic for my tastes, or in the case of my absolute favorite they were out of my size.

I consoled myself by getting a set of Brian Ewing art cards and a bunch of books including *Capote in Kansas*, which I sat and read cover to cover a few minutes later while waiting for my phone to charge.

My first panel for the day was a coloring in comics talk by Steven Oliff of OlyOptics. I missed the start of it, but the second half at least was very informative, even for non-comics coloring. I took the opportunity while waiting for the 4 p.m. J. Michael Straczynski talk to wander around people-watching.

WonderCon is always good for costumes if you don't mind the frequent holdups when photographers converge on a target. There were some I recognized from previous years, like Loki and two variations on the Green Hornet, or from other conventions like the Tenth

Doctor with his companion Dalek, but there were a bunch of others I had not personally seen before including an Indiana Jones and DS couple, a Batman and Batwoman team, and a Bob's Big Boy. My favorite group costumes were a team of Cobra minions and a troupe of



James McAvoy talks about his role in *Wanted*.

Photo by Diane Rooney

novel of the same name. I wrote that one down on my list as a must-see.

On Saturday I found myself at Mel's again before hitting Moscone South for a day of glorious consumerism. There were several t-shirt designs I was interested in but they were either

Victorian explorers complete with pith helmets and parasols. In the not-quite-a-costume-but-still-awesome category were two remote-controlled R2 units that were programmed with all sorts of appropriate sound effects and tunes.

Preceding the J. Michael Straczynski talk was a presentation for a new animated *Spiderman* show for Kids' WB that sounded promising, although I'm not really the biggest Spidey fan. I don't think I've seen JMS talk in years and although he's always a good speaker he seemed in an especially good mood. And no wonder, he currently has several movie projects in various degrees of completion for the likes of Ron Howard, Clint Eastwood and Brad Pitt. The most exciting of these from my perspective is that he penned the script for the upcoming adaptation of *World War Z* by Max Brooks, who is apparently an old time *Babylon 5* fan, bless his heart.

Aside from working for others Straczynski has started his own production company, the aptly named And The Horse You Rode in On Productions, through which he hopes to adapt his *Midnight Nation* and *Rising Stars* series. He also announced he was no longer exclusive to Marvel Comics, which means that

he will be working on some DC series, as well as getting two creator-owned titles over at Image. As if all that was not enough, he gave us old-time *Babylon 5* fans a thrill by announcing that there will be a new comics series for sure, and that Paramount was apparently pleased with sales for the recent *Lost Tales* DVD and is considering doing further stories with a more robust budget in the future. Aside from that, he took questions and told stories and was all around one of my favorite speakers.



Thomas Dekker, Summer Glau and Brian Austin Green share a laugh at the *Terminator* panel.

Photo by Oscar Chang

After that I again ran into Chris Garcia, who was not even supposed to be there, much less wandering the hall lusting over a 1950s Worldcon program book. We wandered around while I waited for my next big event, the *New Frontiers* sneak preview.

The room was pretty full and we were treated to a trailer for another exciting DVD release, an Animatrix-style six-story anthology of

Batman stories called *Gotham Knights*, directed by Bruce Timm but featuring different gorgeous animation for each segment. I was practically vibrating in my seat at how pretty it all was even before *New Frontiers* started. However, after only a few minutes I got a text from Tadao letting me know he'd finally made it into town. Since the sneak peek was repeating the next day I bailed, and we went to, you guessed it... Mel's. While we were eating we spotted another familiar face from Gallifrey, Lee Almodovar, who was apparently attending both WonderCon and the Game Developer's Conference across the street.

Done with dinner, we headed over to The View at the top of the Marriott for Raven O'Neill's traditional WonderCon birthday gathering. The view was truly spectacular, and the drinks and cake were

tasty despite some annoyance with management insisting on providing one single tab, despite the fact that us late arrivals really just wanted to buy a drink or two with our own money, and without involving a couple dozen other folks in the process.

Raven was in her Violet costume from *The Incredibles* and Jean Martin was wearing her Starfleet uniform. Right after we arrived Johnny

B. came in dressed as Doctor Evil, followed almost immediately by Mette and Bryan in their Midna and Wolf Link costumes from *Legend of Zelda*.

The Masquerade was tempting, as was the annual Isotope party which I really meant to get to this year, but the flesh was weak and I decided to call it a night and save my strength for the last day of the con.

Sunday I bought a bunch more comics, natch, and got to see the complete *New Frontiers* which was excellent and I am very glad I got to see it on the big screen even though it's a direct-to-DVD release. The adaptation is faithful to the source material and the title sequence is lovely. *Angel* fans will be amused to know that Hal Jordan is voiced by David Boreanaz.

After the movie, the exhibitors hall was just a few minutes from closing and dazed comic book fans both costumed and in civvies were being shunted blinking into the sunlight.

WonderCon doesn't quite produce the post-convention blues that something like Baycon or Loscon does for me, but it does seem sad to go directly home afterwards, even if you do have a big bag of comics to read. So instead, we finished off the day at the San Francisco Brewing Company in North Beach, where a plate of meat and the Albatross and the Emperor Norton Lagers and the Alcatraz Stout did a great deal to round off a successful weekend.

Weekend at WonderCon (Not)

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

This year I only had one day at WonderCon. Normally, I'd like to have two or even three days to enjoy the sights and sounds and crowds of the Comic-Con of the BArea. Sadly, I only had Friday. As usual, I spent way too much money, but there was one thing, one precious object that I was desperate enough for that I almost blew a month's rent on it.

Glad I didn't, because I love my new place!

I got to the con around noon on Friday. Work was kind enough to turn a blind eye to my leaving. Actually, I think everyone was just too busy picking up the work that I wouldn't be doing to notice that I'd gone. I arrived and instantly made my way to the Artist Alley. I love comics, I really do, but I got tired of modern comics around 1997 and have been sticking with the old stuff ever since. The Artist Alley is filled with smalltime publishers and chapbook people, along with name artists who take a space so that they can take commissions and sign autographs. That's where you find the gold: the little comics that you won't find at Illusive Comics and Games (the only place I buy my comics), and it's the reason I come. They had moved things around from last year, and had put the Artist Alley a bit more into the depths than usual. This annoyed me. I think the Artist

Alley is what makes WonderCon so...wait for it...wonderful. Dealers and film companies get better positioning because the con can make more money selling them space, but they're not why I go, so I complain. It's so fannish of me, no?

The Alley itself was great. While there were a lot of tables that wouldn't be filled until Saturday, the ones that were had some true gold. The first thing that turned my crank was finding Ryan Clayton. He writes the Elephant Foot comics and those are some of the best pieces I've ever found at WonderCon. His latest work, *And Then One Day*, is an autobiographical piece based on his time in grad school. He actually gave a questionnaire to his friends and family and illustrated some of the responses. It's a great concept, and the art style is simple and expressive at the same time. I was most pleased with this for a number of reasons, not the least of which being the fact that it was funny. I certainly hold him in great esteem.

More walking around followed. I found a few things I had to have, such as the freebie comic by Eric Erbes called *World's Stupidest Comic*. I was unimpressed as I've read much stupider comics. The fact that it was on the freebie table should have told me that, but I will admit that it's not bad reading for those down moments at the con. You learn to take advantage of those moments.

One of the strange moments happened very early on in the convention. I was wandering around, looking at various comics and chatting up creators. There was a girl dressed as Lydia from *Beetlejuice*. She walked up to me and stared at me. “I think I know you.” she said.

“I’m not at all surprised.” I said, searching every inch of my brain for who she might be.

“You’re the guy who introduced me to comics back in elementary school.”

I was thrown completely back in time. Kelly Ryder had been that redheaded girl in elementary school that every guy has a story about. She had grown into a lovely young lass, with that flaming red hair slightly poking out from under her black wig. I was amazed she recognized me from almost twenty years since the last time I saw her. She said she would have come up earlier, but the beard threw her off — until she heard me laugh.

I had given her one of my old issues of *The Justice League of America* around 1984, back when there were still good members of the League. She had loved it and was hooked, it seems, forever. After we’d chatted for a while she stopped, stared at me and said, “I’ve wanted to do this since I first noticed you,” and she reached up and ran her fingers through my beard.

“OK, much better now.” she said after retreating her fingers.

A couple of minutes later, we were off in our different directions with a brief hug and an exchange of eDresses. I promised myself I would tell Linda as soon as she got to the con. These things only seem to happen to me.



Kristen Bell stars in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. Photo by Diane Rooney

After that, I went to the various dealers who had old pulps and the like. One of them had a few fanzines, which was amazing considering how rarely they show up at the cons. I was looking through a few when I came up with a rarity beyond all rarities. It was the Convention book for the 1952 Worldcon. I’d seen one of these before, in the auction at CorFlu a couple of years back. I opened it up and looked through. There

were autographs. Lots of them. There was Ray Bradbury, Theodore Sturgeon. Issac Asimov. Some fellow named Heinlein. Jack Williamson. There didn’t seem to be a name active in the field at the time that hadn’t signed it. I was amazed and instantly realized that this was a much bigger deal than just the program I’d thought it was. I turned it over and looked at the price:

850 dollars.

I would have loved to watch myself over those next few minutes. I looked through it again, wondering if there was any way I could afford to buy it. Maybe I could talk him down from \$850 to, oh let’s say, fifty bucks. Maybe he’d have a heart attack and while they were taking his lifeless corpse away, I would be left holding the book. No dice, it turned out. I was simply a guy who would want this thing forever and never be able to afford it. I moved on.

There was a fine group selling books on the edge of the Artist Alley. They were Manic D Press and they had a fine selection. I swear I had never heard of them

but they seem to have been around for a bunch of years. They had a book by Lord Dunsany. He was an early 20th Century author whose stuff was influential on folks like H.P. Lovecraft and Clark Ashton Smith, who are two of my favorite authors from the early portion of the 20th Century. I bought a collection called *The Hashish Man and Other Stories*. The kind woman behind the table said that I should read the first story,

a page and a half, and after I finished, I had to buy it. It's very good creepy stuff from a guy who also managed to have five plays running on Broadway at once!

I am a fan of sociology and the world of comics offers an interesting view of that. Miriam Libicki did a wonderful piece called *Towards A Hot Jew: The Israeli Soldier as Fetish Object*. She called it a "drawn essay" and it's a wonderful study that is at once entertaining, beautiful and enlightening. The feeling is not that of an educational piece, but neither is it a piece of fluff or an autobiographical piece. It's somewhere between and the mash-up seems to make the entire thing far more interesting. It was one of the best things at the con, small press or large.

I spent a little time hanging with my pals from Illusive Comics & Games. Chatting with them is always a good time. I did some nice shilling for the comic *Dorothy*, which is a personal skill of mine. I really like the comic and I think it's 100 times better than Sci Fi's *Tin Man*. I like the PhotoComic concept and the Photoshop-style is pretty awesome.

I went and got a seat to rest my poor little feet. I had barely gotten to the point where the pain in my tootsies had quieted enough when Mike McLaughlin walked in. He had a pair of disks for me to use as the cover for *The BASFA Times* that I'm putting together. He's an amazing artist and he needs to get more exposure and the *BASFA Times* cover is just perfect. We chatted for a minute, and as I was heading back in, I ran into Lenny Bailes, a wonderful fan who I don't often see. He's a very nice guy and a CorFlu regular, and we talked fanzines and so on.

The big events seldom call to me, but I

went to one, the preview of a new Judd Apatow film, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* starring Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis and various others. I was very impressed and laughed my head off at the various gags. At times, I felt terrible for laughing at what I was laughing at. I get like that after I've seen one or two Dogme films in a row. Once in a while, my IndyCred is a hindrance.

I wandered around and ran into more people like Jean Martin and Dr. Noe, which was a nice thing. I talked to various people from podcasts and Fanboy Planet and that made me happy. A lot of folks I see only once or twice a year showed up, which I knew would happen.

Man, I totally want that Worldcon program. I did go back and re-visit it.

I ran into Brad Lyau, an historian and fan who has almost every DC Comic of the Golden Age (and the Silver Age, and even the modern era) and most of the Marvel comics ever. He had just bought a few issues of *Superman* from the early 1940s. It cost exactly the same as the Worldcon program book. I would much rather have the Worldcon program. Man, I totally want that thing. I did go back and re-visit it.

More comics. I bought the *Underground Comics Price Guide* and checked what my Cherry PopTart and Cheech Wizard comics are worth. The Answer: not as much as that Superman Comic! I also ran into a guy selling old underground comics and ran across an issue

of *The BerkeleyCon* from 1974. That was a weird sorta anthology comic about a con in Berkeley, which was a funny, sexy thing. On the cover was a stylized version of Trina Roberts who I saw in the cafe chatting away with someone else who was featured in the pages of the comic. I wanted to ask about getting it signed, but I didn't find a moment.

I went to go get some food and ran into Annalee Newitz and Charlie Anders of *Other Magazine*. I've written things for them over the years and they're good people. We chatted for a bit, I pitched an idea for an article to them, and that was that.

I did another pass through the Artist Alley and then I ran into the best thing ever: The Sankura table. They had a standee of a Japanese Rikishi (sumo wrestler) who is at the second rank (Ozeki) and is the fan favorite of the Japanese Sumo fandom. They had a contest where you could win a trip to the Basho in LA that I'm debating making my way down to see. The best educational thing in the entire convention was the *Sankura Guide to Sumo Wrestling*. It gave you the entire concept of Sumo and how they put together a Basho, the ways of the refs and the ranks of everything. The whole thing had a manga sort of style and gave great examples along with some photos. I was most impressed and read it on the BART trip home. Great stuff.

I had a great trip to WonderCon and wish I could have stayed longer and gone back again. I met up with Linda and we went to dinner at the Metreon and then headed home. She went back for Saturday after our Costume-Con meeting while I went to watch Evelyn for the evening. Damn, I missed another Masquerade!

Elegant Edwardian Tea at the Palace

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG) organized a romantic afternoon tea at the historic Palace Hotel in San Francisco last February 9th. The theme for the get-together was America's "Gilded Age," the era of a burgeoning upper class after the American Civil War — roughly from the 1870s to 1900. Both Victorian and Edwardian costumes were welcomed at the event. I wore a late Edwardian, *Titanic*-era dress, while most opted for late Victorian attire.

I've been a member of GBACG on and off these last few years but I have not gone to many events in the past. I often don't have costumes for the themes they have picked, or the dates coincide with events held by other groups that I'm more active in. I'm also somewhat intimidated by the level of costuming that most members present themselves in, which are really of professional caliber. On a spectrum with serious costumers on one end and serious dancers on the other, I tend to fall in the middle. I love to costume and dance, and I do both quite well, but I don't excel in either field, unlike some people. I just do both for fun.

But when I do have a costume that I feel is up to par and the dates work out just right, I enjoy showing up. This time, I had an Edwardian dress that I bought on eBay a while back that was just waiting for an event just like this. My gown was made of georgette and satin, and so I was glad that it was warm out. It was the first sunny



Deborah and Bud in elegant surroundings.

day of the year, and even in San Francisco, I didn't really need a coat.

We all started meeting before 2:00 p.m. in the hallway of the hotel and took photos. I do like to be photographed in my costumes and I was in very good company that afternoon. We must have spent half the time we were there taking photos of each other and admiring each other's costumes.

At the appointed time, we moved into the Garden Court for afternoon tea. The atrium-like restaurant was very elegant with its stained glass dome, gold adornments, gold chandeliers, marble columns, potted palms and mirror-backed French windows. The sun shone through the dome and gave the entire area a warm glow.

I felt like I was in a movie set with almost 60 people dressed in fabulous and colorful costumes. Most women had elaborate hats with flowers, feathers and even birds. There was even a lady in an awesome Steampunk costume. I tell you, Steampunk is going to be big this year, it's starting to show up everywhere!

Our group took over a quarter of the huge restaurant, and lots of other patrons asked us who we were and what we were doing. Many were impressed at our costuming and one fellow from New York commented how much he appreciated



Phil and Kathe Gust.

San Francisco culture. That's quite a compliment from someone from one of the cultural meccas

also met a few friends there. But I didn't know most of the people in attendance. I did recognize

of the world. But I suppose San Francisco is right up there with New York on that score.

We then sat down to enjoy the amazing afternoon treats. We had delicious English sandwiches, the most scrumptious scones I've had in my life (and I've had many), tartlets, éclairs and chocolate covered strawberries. There were five kinds of teas. I don't drink caffeine so I enjoyed the lavender rooibos, which was quite exotic. I'd never had that one before. Rooibos, a red tea, is actually an herbal tea but is similar in color and taste to black tea. There's also a green rooibos variety, which I don't like as much.

I've had dinner a couple of times at the Garden Court but I'd never gone there for afternoon tea. It was just the perfect setting for an elegant afternoon in our appropriately elegant costumes. There was even a pianist, Paul Scheffert, who filled the air with delightful music, and who was kind enough to let some of us ladies have our photos taken with him playing the piano.

I was at the table with my friends Kathe and Phil Gust, whom I carpoled with, and I



Jean's Edwardian garb.

some of them from PEERS balls or other GBACG events. At our table was the organizer for the event, Sally Norton, who did such a great job. Our afternoon tea went off without a hitch and everyone had a good time.

It was still quite early when we finished, and several of us moved on to the Pied Piper Bar in the hotel. The bar is named after the Maxfield Parrish mural that graces the wall above the bar area. I'm not into bars but this one was cozy, luxurious and refined, and I quite liked it. It has been voted one of the world's seven greatest bars, a well-deserved recognition. Apparently Mark Twain used to go to there frequently. I really felt like I was part of San Francisco history after tea at the Garden Court and drinks at the Pied Piper Bar.

For information on future GBACG events, visit gbacg.org.

***Two ways to hear about
new issues of SF/SF:***

Send an email to
SFinSF@gmail.com to get on
Jean's mailing list

~

Sign up for the eFanzines
announcement list by sending an
email to [efanzines-subscribe
@yahoogroups.com](mailto:efanzines-subscribe@yahoo.com)

My Idol, Carrie Fisher

By Cordelia Willis

Contributing Writer

Carrie Fisher has been a powerful Force in my life for the past 30 years.

When I was eight, I dressed up like Princess Leia, and could quote every line from *Star Wars* (and still can!). At the age of 18, I read Carrie's first novel *Postcards from the Edge* and would quote huge passages from it to anyone who would listen (and still do!). Her third novel, *Delusions of Grandma*, helped me get through the death of a close family friend when I was 28. And I've spent my 38th year dressing as Princess Leia once again for two *Star Wars*-inspired song-and-dance masquerade entries. Therefore, when one of my fellow performers suggested we get tickets to Carrie Fisher's one-woman show, I jumped at the chance to see my life-long idol.

Wishful Drinking opened at Berkeley Repertory's Roda Theatre February 19, and its run has just been extended through April 12. The show, created by Carrie Fisher, is a satirical look at her own colorful life. In an asymmetrical set based on her own living room, she drinks Coke Zero



Photo by Kevin Berne © Berkeley Repertory Theatre. All rights reserved.

and smokes cigarettes throughout her three-hour monologue, making the audience feel they are not so much watching a play as being entertained by an amusing, talkative host. Carrie interacts with the audience members, sometimes raising the house lights so that she can see them react to questions she poses, and occasionally asking some of them to join her on stage.

"I did this show as a really detailed singles ad," she tells the audience, wryly explaining that there simply isn't enough room in a print ad to describe all her baggage.

And what baggage she has! In fact, the show begins with her singing "Happy Days Are Here Again" as newspaper headlines detailing her tabloid-worthy life float by on the screen behind her. The child of "America's Sweethearts," Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds (whom Carrie compares to Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston), the scandal began early on when her father left her mother for Elizabeth Taylor (obviously the Angelina Jolie in this analogy). The subsequent divorces and affairs amongst her parents' generation and her own are humorously described

via a photo-filled chalkboard that descends from the ceiling, giving the audience a lesson in “Hollywood Inbreeding 101.” Carrie even explains that, while her mother is a “gay icon,” she is “not a lesbian -- she’s just a really really bad heterosexual.”

Of course, the life story of Carrie Fisher would not be complete without discussing the movie that changed all our lives, *Star Wars*. Donning a Leia bun wig, Carrie ironically acknowledges her iconic status. At our matinee, she even gave a shout-out to our group, saying, “I hear there are people with Leia wigs in the balcony — I approve!” before asking, “Has the acid kicked in yet?” Of course, when your own likeness has been made into a Pez dispenser, a shampoo bottle, and a life-sized sex doll, your only recourse is to laugh. “If my life weren’t funny,” Carrie says, “it would just be true. And that would be unacceptable.”

The second act delves into Carrie Fisher’s struggles both with addictions and her bipolar disorder. “I am very sane about how crazy I am,” she admits, and her analogies definitely prove this. After all, only a sane person could explain that “mania is like a bank error in your favor,” or that “when you’re manic, every idea is like an edict from the Vatican.” In fact, her openness about her bipolar disorder has won her an Erasing the Stigma Leadership Award, which she brags is “much better than being merely the runner-up for Bipolar Person of the Year.”

The show ends with Carrie explaining that there is only so much information that a human brain can hold, so she actively attempts to purge something she feels her brain has no further use for — her complete hologram speech

from *Star Wars*. I admit that I was mouthing the entire speech along with her, as were many of my compatriots. Our brains may not *need* that speech, but I don’t think it’s going to be purged from any of our consciousnesses any time soon.

Princess Leia was my idol as a kid — she was strong and independent and she persevered, even when the odds were stacked

against her. Carrie Fisher, as she openly and humorously portrays herself in *Wishful Drinking*, demonstrates that she herself embodies all these qualities. Indeed, Carrie Fisher is worthy of my idolatry!

Carrie Fisher’s Wishful Drinking is playing at Berkeley Repertory’s Roda Theatre through April 12.



Fisher’s fans show off their “Leia Buns.”

Photo courtesy Jean Martin

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 916-917

BASFA Minutes for Meeting Number (Last Week +1)

Meeting number (last week+1) began at 8:02 with 9 members present. No President, no secretary, no problem! We pressed Harold into service as notetaker and the VP took the reins.

These minutes are typed up by Chris from those notes taken by Harold.

No President's Report.

No Treasurer's Report, though it was assumed that we got money.

VP Report- New *Drink Tanks* out, *SF/SF* comes out on Wednesday and that's it.

Announcements

Fred announced that there was an SFinSF reading this Saturday at the Hobart building- 582 Market St. And then there's Potlatch in Seattle the last weekend in February.

Eric announced that there's a CC26 meeting at the Doubletree on 2/23.

Chris brought up that WonderCon is this weekend in SF (2/22-2/24) and there'll be an X-Files movies panel along with folks from Sarah Connors Chronicles. Chris will wear bells.

Howeird announced the Radio Hour at Saratoga

City Hall. It's a recreation of old timey radio plus 10 minutes on either side of backstage drama.

Reviews

Howeird reviewed DVD of Fantastic Four Rise of the Silver Surfer as not as bad as Spidey 3. Good CGI, blown chance at naked Jessica Alba. Worth Netflixing.

Stellan reviewed iFly in Union City as non-flying skydiving. Riding on a cushion of air (like a Ryder truck) and it's 50 bucks for a couple of minutes floating time. Arrive early for training video, you learn handsignals. Worth it to have done it and not have to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

Chris read a book, *Kitty Takes a Holiday* by Carrie Vaughn. Werewolf talk radio. Entertaining, well-paced, well-written fun. He also watched *Festen* (The Celebration in English) Depressing/Funny. Sexual abuse, strung-out sister. You know, a family film.

Mike reviewed Gallifrey as the hotel was horrible with tiny little bathrooms. Lots of fun for the con itself and he signed up for next year. Lots of panels, more than a thousand folks showed up. Not underpopulated and not too crowded either except for the live commentary panels.

Harold reviewed something with the initials WRM. I think it was a positive review. I'm not sure. Seriously, it's less than 12 hours later and I totally blanked. No clue.

The group failed to formulate a Rumor of the Week.

Meeting 917

February 25, 2008

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:04

29 people attended

We established a TAFF jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 915 as 'borderline laryngitis' & accepted the minutes of meeting 916 as 'on the web'

Treasurer's report was that at meeting 915 we took in \$12.50 in the regular jar & \$6.83 in the TAFF jar & at meeting 916 we took in \$3.00 in the regular jar

The VP reported that he goes to England on March 14 [the comments went a bit blue then], he says there's a new 'Drink Tank' out and a new 'SF/SF' as well

The President teased the members with a

comment about wanting to report something fannish - but had nothing fannish to report [and stated that 'the state of your panties is your own affair']

Miko suggested a rule modification & it failed

Announcements

Ken announced that there's a wedding this Friday - for Ken & Jerry [and there was much merriment]

[evil] Kevin announced something [that Joe's comment drowned out] [the IRLM Coronation] that happens March 8th, check the website at www.irlm.org

Dave C announced that Norwescon starts March 20 at the SeaTac Doubletree & features the return of Girl Genius radio [and tall Kevin will be there, hosting 'Match Game']

[tall] Kevin also reminded folks to mail in their Hugo ballots

Lynn Gold announced that Consonance will be March 7-9 at the Crown Plaza in Milpitas & there will be a wedding held at con [Chaos Savitsky and Selkit being wed]

Glenn announced that February has 29 days this month

Dave G announced that in honor of Ken & Jerry's wedding that Spring will have a Tupperware party, Saturday, March 1 at 4 pm at the House of Spike [and there will also be jewelry there]

Dave C announced the reunion of the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band

We then did auctions: Books for \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$0.50, \$0.50, \$0.50, \$1.75, \$3.00, a box of VHS tapes for \$10.00, a stack of comics for \$0.50, a box of books for \$4.00, another box of books for \$1.00, Kermit books for \$1.50, and a glowy lamp for \$10.00.

Reviews:

Glenn reviewed the 'Funny Times' a humor clipping service as funny and reviewed the food at 'Uno Mas' as better than Cocos [there were grumbles of disagreement]

Adrienne reviewed 'Juno' as she really liked it and was impressed, reviewed 'Michael Clayton' as an enjoyable film, reviewed her migraine as fierce and reviewed the 2nd season of 'Rome' as she loved the costumes & it was well worth rental or on TV

Chris reviewed Wondercon as a nice time and he spent an obscene amount on comics there - he saw an awesome Sumo demo, lusted for the 7th Worldcon book, reviewed going to a baptism on Sunday as 'excellent' & reviewed 2 DVDs of avant garde films as 'as long as there's a mime or harlequin in it, it counts as avant garde' & Dave C follow-on'd that the Moscone South is too big for Wondercon

Lisa reviewed 'Definitely Maybe' as cute and sweet and definitely worth matinee

Harold reviewed HBO boxing events as the

dullest thing on TV - even worse than golf

Andy gave short 'Torchwood' reviews & reviewed Gallifrey as intoxicating and worth full price & reviewed the SF Coronation as worth driving to in the rain, full price [and there were many, many jokes made about ... size issues - it got a bit blue and Glenn wept with laughter]

Dave C reviewed Kim Newman's 'Secret Files of the Diogenes Club' as fun, worth trade paperback full price

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Asteroid' on the SciFi Channel as twice as long as 'Meteor' and not as good

Stellen reviewed 'Skyrates' online as the avatars are furrries, the graphics are good and it's reasonably fast play - and free, check skyrates.net

We adjourned at = 9:50

And the rumor of the week was that = 'Masked Mexican Sumo wrestling, coming soon'

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes canceled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

Consonance

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

\$50 at the door

www.consonance.org

The Bay Area's annual filk convention returns.

Saturday, March 8

San Jose Super Toy, Comic Book & Record Show

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Rd.

San Jose

11 a.m.-4 p.m. (early bird 9 a.m.-10:59 a.m.)

\$15)

www.timetunneltoys.com

General Admission \$5

Sunday, March 9

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Regular comic, toy and anime show, featuring game tournaments, cosplay contest, more.

Friday, March 14

Ask a Scientist's Pi Day Puzzle Party

The Bazaar Café

5927 California St. (21st Ave) San Francisco

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

Celebrate Pi Day (3.14) this year with a boisterous math and logic puzzle competition, hosted by the inimitable Wes Carroll.

Saturday, March 15

Author: Jeffrey Ford

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Sunday, March 16

SF in SF: Jeffrey Ford (plus a surprise guest)

Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market Street

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free.

Ongoing monthly reading and discussion series sponsored by Tachyon Publications and moderated by Terry Bisson. There is a cash bar and books will be provided for sale by Borderlands Books.

Monday, March 17

Ask a Scientist: The Science of Baseball

Axis Café

201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

This event is presented in collaboration with KQED's QUEST program. Details to follow.

Thursday March 20

826 Valencia

San Francisco

Benefit Book Party with Michael Chabon

Details to follow.

Send your items for inclusion
in our Calendar section to:

SFinSF@gmail.com

Friday March 29

The Phenomenauts CD Release Party
 Slims
 333 11th Street
 San Francisco
 www.phenomenauts.com
 9:00 p.m.
 \$13

Friday-Sunday, April 4-6

Contact 24
 NASA Ames Research Center
 Mountain View
 \$135

Saturday, April 5

The Royal Debutante Ball
 PEERS Event
 Masonic Lodge
 100 North Ellsworth
 San Mateo
 www.peers.org
 \$15 in advance (until March 29), \$20 at the door.
 A ball in honor of the debut in Society of Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, April 10

Thrillville's 11th Anniversary Show
It! The Terror from Beyond Space (1958) and
Journey to the 7th Planet (1962)
 Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
 10070 San Pablo Avenue
 El Cerrito
 www.thrillville.net
 7:30 p.m.
 \$10

With Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash, Ms. Monster and a live music by The TomorrowMen.

Saturday, April 5

Author: Scott Sigler
 Borderlands Books
 866 Valencia
 San Francisco
 www.borderlands-books.com
 3 p.m

Saturday, April 12

Author: Peter F. Hamilton
 Borderlands Books
 866 Valencia
 San Francisco
 www.borderlands-books.com
 4 p.m
 UK author Peter F. Hamilton makes a rare state-side appearance.

Saturday, April 12

Other Magazine presents Writers With Drinks
 The Make-Out Room
 3225 22nd Street
 San Francisco
 www.writerswithdrinks.com
 7 p.m.
 This month's WWD features science fiction sensation Peter Hamilton and theremin-playing author Elliot Fintushel.
 \$3-\$5 sliding scale.

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20

La Prova Dura
 SCA West Kingdom, Shire of Canale
 San Benito County Fairgrounds

9000 Airline Highway
 Tres Pinos
 \$10

Saturday, April 19

Author: Ray Garton
 Borderlands Books
 866 Valencia
 San Francisco
 www.borderlands-books.com
 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

Author: Peter Beagle
 Clayton Books
 5433 Clayton Road
 Clayton
 www.claytonbookshop.com
 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
 Civic Center to Japantown
 San Francisco
 www.nccbf.org
 1 p.m.
 Free
 A cosplay contest traditionally precedes the parade, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners getting to ride a float to Japan Center.

Friday April 25

Second Skin: Imaginative Designs in Digital & Analog Clothing
 The Exploratorium
 3601 Lyon Street
 San Francisco
 www.exploratorium.edu/2ndskin/

Fashion show of wearable art that also offers demonstrations of the latest trends in electroluminescent wire, soft circuitry, and green innovations. Wear or bring your own full-body wearable art (non-Members doing so will receive a 50% admission discount). Admission to the event is included in the price of admission to the Exploratorium. 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.cc26.info
\$95 in advance (through April 15, 2008)
CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008.

Monday, April 28

Author: Jack O'Connell
Dark Carnival Bookstore
3086 Claremont Avenue
Berkeley
www.darkcarnival.com
Book signing by the author of *The Resurrectionist*.
5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Chicago Speakeasy Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until April 26), \$20 at the door.

Join us at the hottest speakeasy in Chicago for All That Jazz! PEERS is proud (and truly amazed) to announce that the evening's band will be the one, the only, the incomparable Lee Presson and the Nails!
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2008
\$65 in advance (through March 15)
Northern California's largest annual general SF convention is on the move again. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com
\$50 in advance (through March 31)
The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Saturday, June 7

Gone with the Wind Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until May 31), \$20 at the door. Inspired by the Charity Ball In Atlanta from the first part of *Gone with the Wind*. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door. Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic
PEERS Event
Lincoln Park
1450 High Street
Alameda
www.peers.org
Free
Le Salon de Refuses invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m. Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday August 16-17

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival
Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
www.sffaire.com
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday

\$15

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruta

10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy

Hollister

<http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/>

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun

\$25 (starting May)

Saturday, September 6

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.

Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball in Space. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc

www.siliconventions.com

Details to follow.

Saturday, October 4th

Swingin' in the Rain

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the

door.

An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, October 10-12

Con-x-Treme

San Mateo Marriott

1770 S. Amphlett Blvd

San Mateo

www.con-x-treme.org

Con-x-Treme returns for a second year. (No, really.)

Details to follow.

Saturday, November 1

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave

Alameda

www.peers.org.

\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.

Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors; Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2

Alternative Press Expo

The Concourse

620 7th Street

San Francisco

Details to follow

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

www.sfgghosthunt.com

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society

Rancho Cordova Library

9845 Folsom Boulevard

Rancho Cordova

3-7 p.m.

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

Currently looking for a new regular meeting location. Check the website for details.

www.basfa.org

8 p.m.

Free

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

8 p.m.

Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together

to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays
Silicon Valley Boardgamers
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/
6:30 p.m.

\$2
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays
Bay Area Role-Playing Society
Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
6 p.m.-10 p.m.
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays
East Bay Strategy Games Club
EndGame
921 Washington
Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Free

Wednesdays and Saturdays
Hayward Collectibles Show

22300 Hathaway Ave (read bldg)
Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Free

Fridays
SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street
San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
7 p.m. to midnight

Free
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10:00.

Fridays-Mondays
Haunted Haight Walking Tour
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
\$20
Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays
Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com
8 p.m.
\$20

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays
Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Midnight
\$7
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly
PenSFA Party
The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending.
PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

East Bay Star Wars Club

Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Next meetup is 3/14/2008

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/
Social club for Sacramento County sci fi/fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Free
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
Free
5:00 p.m.

Next meeting is March 9th to discuss *Deadstock* by Jeffrey Thomas. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
7:30 p.m.
Free
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of *Doctor Who*, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Free
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
The book for March is *The Call of Cthulhu* by H.P. Lovecraft. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano

1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Noon
Free
SF *Firefly/Serenity* fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

SF/SF Meetup

Mysterious Future Bookstore
531 Fifth Street
Santa Rosa
scifi.meetup.com/348/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
Silicon Valley fans of *Firefly/Serenity* meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada

Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
1 p.m.
Free

Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.

USS Defiance
Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org
7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights
The Great Mall Food Court
Milpitas
firstjedi2000@yahoo.com
7 p.m.
Free
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than *Trek*. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd
Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours



Editorial

From Page 7

in previous roles. He looks like a cross between Orlando Bloom and Jonathan Firth. Jonathan Firth is the younger brother of the most popular Mr. Darcy of them all, Colin Firth. There are several eBay auctions to meet Colin as I'm writing this Editorial. The one for London on July 1st at the world premiere of *Mamma Mia* is currently going for \$7,000. At least it's going to a good cause: Oxfam America.

I've also been sorting through my things and trying to organize and purge stuff. I still have a garage full of boxes since my move, but I haven't had the time or energy to do anything about it. I did find the fantasy and sci fi novellas I wrote in my teens and early twenties, as well as poems, songs and copies of my heavy metal magazine from the early 1990s. This all made me realize that writing has been my passion for a very long time and I've come full circle doing this zine. I don't have the time, inspiration or stamina to write novellas anymore, but it sure makes me happy that I did these all at one point in my life. Now

I'm going to keep doing *SF/SF* as long as I can possibly do it and as long as people appreciate my work and everyone else's work at this here zine.